California Air Resources Board

Staff Proposal on Greenhouse Gas Thresholds of Significance under CEQA

Potential Performance Standards and Measures

December 9, 2008

Background

- AB 32 & Executive Order S-03-05
- SB 97
 - OPR tasked with updating CEQA guidelines for GHGs by early 2009
 - OPR asked ARB to recommend a method for setting GHG-related significance thresholds
- October release of preliminary draft proposal for interim thresholds

Overview - Preliminary Draft Proposal

- Residential and Commercial Projects
 - Performance standards for construction, energy, water, waste and transportation
 - Upper limit on project emissions
- Industrial Projects
 - Quantitative standard of 7,000 MTCO2e/yr for operational emissions
 - Performance standard for construction

3

Process Highlights

- Focus today on performance standards for residential and commercial projects
- Staff working on overall framework in response to comments
- December 19 release of next draft proposal
 - Framework, thresholds and application analysis
- Third workshop early January
- Board meeting January 22, 2009

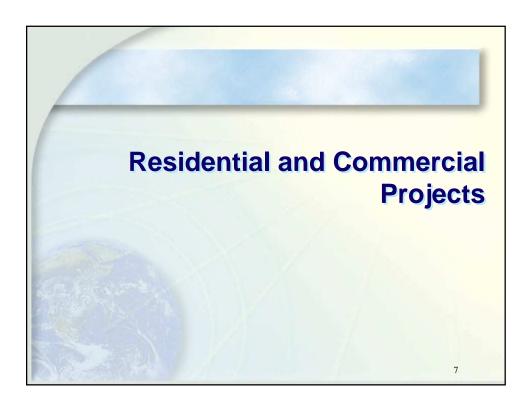
Context

- Global, cumulative pollutant
- Project-by-project CEQA approach
- Distinct AB 32 and CEQA statutes
- Lead agencies implement CEQA

5

ARB Staff's Overall Approach

- Stringent non-zero thresholds
- Apply sector-by-sector approach
- Encourage lead agencies to include lifecycle emissions where appropriate
- ARB recommendation is interim
- Lead agencies retain existing authority on thresholds



Developing Performance Standards and Measures

Sources

- Staff surveyed performance standards and best management practices in:
 - Green building rating systems
 - California Green Building Code
 - Incentive programs
 - CEQA exemption in SB375

9

Green Building Rating Systems

- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design:
 - New Construction
- Homes
- Existing Buildings
- Schools
- Neighborhood Development
- Collaborative for High Performance Schools
- California Green Builder Program
- Green Point Rated Single and Multifamily Homes

Incentive Programs

- Federal Transit Administration
 - New Starts Program
- CA Housing and Community Development
 - Transit Oriented Development Housing Program
- CA Energy Commission
 - SB 1 Solar Electric Incentive Programs

11

Application of Performance Standards and Measures

- Project would meet <u>all</u> interim performance standards for:
 - Energy

- Water

- Waste

- Construction

- Transportation
- Project with mitigation may demonstrate an equivalent level of GHG emission reductions

Potential Performance Standards and Measures

13

Construction

- Provide alternative transportation mode options or incentives for workers to and from worksite on days that construction requires 200 or more workers; AND
- Recycle and/or salvage at least 75% of non-hazardous construction and demolition debris by weight (residential) or by weight or volume (commercial); AND

Potential Performance Standards and Measures

Construction, cont.

- Use recycled materials for at least 20% of construction materials
 - Based on cost for building materials
 - Based on volume for roadway, parking lot, sidewalk and curb materials
 - Recycled materials may include: salvaged, reused, and recycled content materials

Potential Performance Standards and Measures

15

Energy

- Meet CEC's voluntary Tier II Energy Efficiency standards in effect at time building construction begins
 - Source: Standards to qualify for solar energy incentive programs
 - Currently 30% reduction in combined space heating, cooling and water heating energy compared to 2008 Title 24 Standards

Potential Performance Standards and Measures

Water

- Reduce <u>indoor</u> potable water use by at least 20%
- Reduce <u>outdoor</u> potable water use for landscape irrigation by at least 50%

Benchmark for comparison: water use levels projected by application of methodology in California Green Building Code, Section 603.2 (for indoor) and 604.2 (for outdoor)

Potential Performance Standards and Measures

17

Waste

- Where local recycling and/or composting programs exist:
 - Design facilities and structures to encourage participation in program; AND
 - Install adequate, accessible recycling and composting receptacles in common or public areas; AND
 - Provide easy access to central recycling and composting receptacles or collections areas

Potential Performance Standards and Measures

Residential Transportation

- Demonstrate that average vehicle miles traveled per household per year (VMT/hh-yr) is projected not to exceed 14,000 VMT/hh-yr
- Represents carbon-efficient, compact development with close proximity to transit and variety of services

Potential Performance Standards and Measures

19

Commercial Transportation

- Meet the following proximity and design elements:
 - ½ mile of residential zone or neighborhood with average density of at least 10du/net acre;
 AND
 - ½ mile of at least 10 neighborhood services;
 AND
 - Pedestrian access between project and services; AND

Potential Performance Standards and Measures

Commercial Transportation, cont.

 Institute comprehensive transportation demand management (TDM) program to reduce employee trips by at least 20%

Potential Performance Standards and Measures

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Analysis of Representative Projects

- Impacts on all sub-sources, except waste
- Six residential projects
 - Single and multifamily, some with local serving retail and transit, density of 3-38 units/acre
 - Size: 45 14,000 dwelling units
- Six commercial projects
 - Distribution center, business park, discount superstore, medical office, office tower, school
 - Size: 100,000 5,000,000 sq ft

Emission Reductions by Project

 Application of performance standards and measures resulted in emission reductions of:

- Residential: 20 - 50%

- Commercial: 7 - 15%



Schedule

Dec 9: Performance standards/measures

and initial results

Dec 16: Comments due on draft

performance standards/measures

Dec 19: Updated Draft Recommendation

Jan 6: 3rd Public Workshop

Comments due on updated Draft

Jan 12: Draft Recommendation for Board

Jan 22: ARB Board Meeting

Contacts

Project Website:

http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/localgov/ceqa/ceqa.htm

Online Comments:

http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/localgov/ceqa/ceqacomm.htm